

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined ("____") being added and the language that contains strikethrough ("—") being deleted:

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the transmission of data between a first and second station over a transmission medium connecting the first and second station, said method comprising:

receiving a request for a new data link having a first channel capacity at a first priority level from a first application at the first station;

the first station determining an available free channel capacity of the transmission medium, the free channel capacity including a currently unused capacity and at least a portion of capacity currently allocated to data links having a priority level less than the first priority level; ~~and~~

the first station determining that the free channel capacity at the first priority level is less than the requested first channel capacity; and

delaying the establishment of the new data link for a first period of time.

10. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising: preventing the degradation of already-existing data links having a priority level equal to the first priority level by excluding from the determination of free channel capacity the capacity currently allocated to data links having a priority level equal to the first priority level.

11. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 10, wherein a maximum threshold level of capacity currently allocated to data links having a priority level less than the first priority level is defined at the first station, and applied in determining free channel capacity, preventing the station from characterizing all of the capacity currently allocated to data links having a priority level less than the first priority level as free channel capacity.

12. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising: ~~A method for controlling the transmission of data between a first and second station over a transmission medium connecting the first and second station, said method comprising:~~

~~receiving a request for a new data link having a first channel capacity at a first priority level from a first application at the first station;~~

~~the first station establishing the new data link without regard for the current utilization of the medium~~ after the first period of time,

the first station receiving a message from the second station to halt the new data link, and at least temporarily suspending the new data link for a ~~first~~ second period of time after receiving the message.

13. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 12, further comprising, after the ~~first~~ second period of time, the first station ~~again~~ establishing a second new data link without regard for the current utilization of the medium.

14. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 13, after the ~~first~~ second period of time, and after establishing a second new data link ~~again~~, receiving a second message from the second station to halt the second new data link,

delaying the establishment of the second new data link for a ~~second~~ third period of time, the ~~second~~ third period of time equal to the ~~first~~ second period of time increased by a discrete value.

15. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the establishment of the second new data link is repeated until either ~~the~~ a transmission via the second new data link completes or the second new data link attempts are finally halted by a termination condition.

16. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the duration of the ~~first~~ second period of time is set by a portion of the message received from the second station.

17. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 9, further comprising:
after the first period of time, the first station determining again that the free channel capacity at the first priority level is less than the requested first channel capacity; and
delaying the establishment of the new data link for a second period of time, the second period of time equal to the first period of time increased by a discrete value.

18. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 17, wherein the determining of free channel capacity and delaying of the establishment of the new data link are repeated until either the establishment of a data link is permitted or the attempt to establish the new data link is finally halted by a termination condition.

19. (Previously Presented) The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the threshold level is a percentage of the capacity currently allocated to data links having a priority level less than the first priority level.

20. (Currently Amended) The method ~~according to~~ in accordance with claim 12, wherein the message received from the second station is tagged as having a highest priority.

21. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

~~A method for controlling the transmission of data between a first and second station over a transmission medium connecting the first and second station, said method comprising:~~

~~maintaining one or more data links at a second station having a second priority;~~

the first station establishing the new data link after the first period of time,

the second station determining that a second new data link established by ~~[[a]]~~ the first station having a priority equal to a priority of the one or more existing data links would cause a loss of quality ~~of the one or more existing~~ data links; and

the second station sending a message to the first station instructing the first station to at least temporarily suspend the second new data link for a ~~first~~ second period of time.

22. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 21, further comprising, after the ~~first~~ second period of time, the second station determining that a ~~second~~ third new link established by the first station having a priority equal to a priority of the one or more existing data links would cause a loss of quality of the one or more existing data links; and

sending a second message to the first station instructing the first station to at least temporarily suspend the ~~second~~ third new data link for a ~~second~~ third period of time equal to the ~~first~~ second period of time increased by a discrete value.

23. (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 21, wherein the determining that

a second new data link established by a first station having a priority equal to a priority of the one or more existing data links would cause a loss of quality of the one or more existing data links comprises detecting a buffer overflow condition.